



Washington State
Association of Counties



January 27, 2012

Gerry O'Keefe, Director
Puget Sound Partnership
326 East D Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

RE: Near Term Action Agenda and the Voluntary Stewardship Program

Dear Mr. O'Keefe:

From 2007 through last year's passage of ESHB 1886 we served as Coordinators for our respective caucus' negotiating an agreement through the Ruckelshaus Center. As you know, our negotiations resulted in the establishment of the Voluntary Stewardship Program that intends to assure the viability of agriculture while protecting critical areas as defined by RCW 36.70A.030 (5).

These four Puget Sound counties adopted resolutions/ordinances to opt into VSP:

Thurston
Mason
San Juan
Skagit

In our review, there are some 30 Near Term Actions that are either directly or tangentially related to the implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Thus, our request that a specific Near Term Action be more clearly stated as follows:

"Support implementation, funding, and assistance to the Washington State Conservation Commission and those Counties participating in the Voluntary Stewardship Program".

Respectively Submitted,

Eric Johnson
Counties Caucus

Len Barson
Environmental Caucus

John Stuhlmiller
Agriculture Caucus

Cc: Martha Kongsgaard, Chair, Puget Sound Partnership
Dave Somers, Chair, Ecosystem Coordination Board
Mark Clark, Washington State Conservation Commission